instrument for deploying said inserts into respective ones of the channels, at least a portion of each of said inserts being formed of a resorbable material to stimulate angiogenesis in the myocardium, said inserts when deployed within the channels being resistant to migration and not significantly limiting the contractility of the being's heart, said resorbable portion of said inserts resorbing over time in the selected portion of the myocardium and serving to elicit a foreign body or healing response in the tissue making up the selected portion of the myocardium to form plural blood-carrying lumens in the myocardium and enhance to flow of blood to the myocardium even if the channels close down after said resorbable portion of said inserts has resorbed.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 19 appear in this case, with Claim 1 having been amended to expedite the prosecution of this application.

The applicants and undersigned are most appreciative of the courtesies extended to the undersigned and the applicant, Douglas G. Evans, during a personal interview conducted on August 22, 2000.

During that interview the background of the subject invention and the prior art patent to Hussein was discussed, particularly regarding the obviousness of the invention in view of Hussein as asserted by the examiner. In particular, Examiner Truong was presented with various reasons why one skilled in the art at the time that the invention was made would not modify the stents of Hussein to make them resorbable. Those reasons will be set forth in detail hereinafter.